

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03039 180441Z

12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05

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----- 095767

R 180400Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3769

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3039

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO 17 MAR 75,
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION. QUOTE.

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0101

L I M D I S

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF PREVIOUS CABLE (AGREEMENT REACHED
ON DRAFT DEFERMENTS FOR CAMBODIAN MONKS IN VINH BINH)

REF: CAN THO 0095

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FURTHER CLARIFIES INFO IN REFTEL.
PLAN PROPOSED BY GVN DELEGATION SET UP A SCREENING PROCESS
T DETERMINE THE DRAFT STATUS OF THOSE IN PAGODA. ALL MONKS
BETWEEN 18 AND 21 WITH LESS THAN FIVE YEARS IN A PAGODA PRIOR
TO THEIR 18TH BIRTHDAY MUST REPORT FOR INDUCTION. THOSE BETWEEN
21 AND 43 WHO HAVE LESS THAN FIVE YEARS IN PAGODAS MUST ALSO
REPORT FOR INDUCTION. A MONK'S STATUS MUST BE CERTIFIED BY
FOUR PEOPLE AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. OF THE 122 MONKS STILL
DETAINED BY POLICE IN VINH BINH (P) AS DRAFTDODGERS, 40 WERE
FOUND TO QUALIFY UNDER THE NEW TERMS AND WILL BE ALLOWED TO
RETURN TO THEIR PAGODAS. THE REMAINING 73 HAVE BEEN GRANTED 15
DAYS RESPITE, AFTER WHICH THEY MUST REPORT FOR INDUCTION. THE
GVN GUARANTEED THAT NO PAGODAS WOULD BE SEARCHED WITHOUT PERSONAL
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PERMISSION OF THE SECT HEAD MONK IN VINH BINH.

2. GVN DELEGATION TOLD OUR PR IN VINH BINH BEFORE LEAVING THAT THEY BELIEVED MONK LEADERS ATTENDING MEETING AGREED TO ABOVE FORMULA. HOWEVER, AFTER MEETING, THREE MONKS REPORTEDLY TOLD ALL OF THOSE RELEASED TO RETURN TO THEIR PAGODAS, AND THAT NO MONKS WILL BE FORCED OUT OF PAGODAS, WHETHER THEY QUALIFY UNDER NEW RULES OR NOT. THEY ALSO SAID THAT NO GVN OFFICIALS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ENTER ANY PAGODAS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE VARYING INTERPRETATIONS OF AGREEMENT, BELIEVE IT WILL ALLOW BOTH SIDES TO SAVE FACE WHILE DEFUSING DANGEROUS SITUATION. DOUBT GVN WILL PRESS ISSUE FURTHER EVEN IF LETTER OF AGREEMENT NOT RESPECTED BY CAMBODIANS. SIGNED MCNAMARA. UNQUOTE.
LEHMANN

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